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# Commission on the Status of Women

## Report on the fifty-ninth session (21 March 2014 and 9-20 March 2015)

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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures.

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*Summary*

At its fifty-ninth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 2009/15 and 2013/18, undertook a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective.

The session was the culmination of a two-year process that included reviews at the national level by 167 States, regional intergovernmental meetings by the five regional commissions of the United Nations and other review activities convened by civil society and the United Nations system.

The Commission adopted a Political Declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (see resolution 59/1). Among other elements, Ministers and representatives of Governments reaffirmed the Platform for Action, welcomed progress made, expressed concern that progress had been slow and uneven and that, 20 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, no country had fully achieved equality and empowerment for women and girls, with many women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life cycle. They pledged to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through strengthened implementation of laws, policies and strategies; strengthened and increased support for institutional mechanisms for gender equality; transformation of discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes; significantly increased investment for gender equality to close resource gaps through both domestic resource mobilization and development cooperation; strengthened accountability for the implementation of existing commitments; and enhanced capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation. They welcomed the contribution of civil society and pledged to continue to support civil society actors, including by promoting a safe and enabling environment for them. They also committed to use all opportunities and processes in 2015 and beyond to accelerate and achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

The session in its entirety aimed to give a strong impetus to the accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action. Towards this end, the session provided opportunities for dialogue and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned to enhance political commitment to action. The Commission held a total of four ministerial round tables and nine interactive panels on cross-cutting topics. The Chairs' summaries of the four ministerial round tables and the panel discussions on the topics "Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming: a dialogue with functional commissions" and "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals: lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals

and galvanizing transformative change" will constitute an input to the annual theme of the Economic and Social Council for 2015.

In addition, the Commission adopted:

(a) By a recorded vote, a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", for action by the Economic and Social Council;

(b) A draft resolution entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women", for action by the Council;

(c) A draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission".

The Commission further decided to take note of the report of its Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and to include it in the present report in its entirety.

[8 April 2015]

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# Chapter I

## Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

### A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

**Draft resolution I**
**Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women***

*The Economic and Social Council*,

*Having considered* with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

*Recalling* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

*Recalling also* its resolution 2014/1 of 12 June 2014 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013, on women and peace and security,

*Recalling further* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

*Taking note* of the recent accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

1 E/CN.6/2015/5.

2 *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A

3 *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

4 General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

5 See General Assembly 48/104.

6 See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

7 United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

*Expressing deep concern* about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

*Expressing grave concern* about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including as a result of the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights, arbitrary detention and imprisonment and escalating settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their properties, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where a grave humanitarian crisis continues to severely affect the situation of women and girls,

*Deploring* the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access for pregnant women to health-care services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

*Condemning* the military conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly persons, as well as the widespread destruction of homes and critical civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law,

*Gravely concerned*, in particular, about the critical socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the Israeli military operations in July and August 2014, as well as the long-term negative impact of Israeli military operations from December 2008 to January 2009 and in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has

detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

*Stressing* the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with international humanitarian law,

*Stressing also* the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground, particularly in response to the grave humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip,

*Welcoming* the convening of the Cairo International Conference for Palestine and Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families,

*Reiterating* the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of women's equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and immense reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip, and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the achievements of the Palestinian Government in constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, as confirmed by international institutions, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Calls upon* international donors to fulfil without delay all pledges made at the Cairo International Conference for Palestine and Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, in order to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949[9] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

5. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

6. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

7. *Urges* the international community to make renewed efforts aimed at advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty based on clear parameters and with a defined time frame to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

8. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

[8] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

**Draft resolution II**
**Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women***

*The Economic and Social Council*,

*Recalling* its resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, in which it decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should review the functioning of its methods of work, adopted by the Council in its resolution 2006/9 of 25 July 2006 and confirmed in its resolution 2009/15 of 28 July 2009, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission,

*Reaffirming* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[1]

*Recognizing* that the organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

*Recognizing also* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations of States under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the realization of their human rights,

*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting gender mainstreaming,

*Recognizing* the key role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in supporting the work of the Commission on the Status of Women,

*Recognizing also* the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission on the Status of Women,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, in which it is stipulated

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[1] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

that the Council shall invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme,

*Noting* the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the relevance of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in this respect,

1. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[1] and further reaffirms its mandate and its important role in overall policymaking and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[2] in which it is recognized that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls is essential for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

2. *Affirms* that the Commission on the Status of Women will also contribute to the follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda, to be adopted at the United Nations summit to be held in September 2015, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

3. *Decides* that the Commission on the Status of Women will report on the aspects relating to gender equality and empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to its work;

4. *Also decides* that the session of the Commission on the Status of Women will include a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the Commission's deliberations, and that the segment will include ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

5. *Further decides* that the Commission on the Status of Women will continue to hold, on an annual basis, a general discussion that will commence during the ministerial segment on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and recommends that statements identify goals attained, achievements made and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme;

6. *Decides* that statements made during the general discussion will continue to be subject to strict time limits that will be determined prior to the session by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women and consistently applied by the Chair;

7. *Also decides* that the Commission on the Status of Women will continue to consider one priority theme at each session, on the basis of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special

session of the General Assembly and possible linkages to the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the summit;

8. *Further decides* that the consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women of the priority theme shall focus on ways and means to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of current challenges, through not more than two interactive expert panels or other interactive dialogues to identify key policy initiatives and strategies in order to accelerate implementation on the basis of an exchange of national, regional and global experiences, lessons learned, good practices and new insights based on evidence, research and evaluation, and with an emphasis on results achieved and to strengthen dialogue and commitment for further action, and that the expert panels could include experts from Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholder groups that work on the theme under consideration;

9. *Decides* that the outcome of the annual discussions on the priority theme shall be in the form of short and succinct agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States, which shall focus on action-oriented recommendations for steps and measures to close remaining gaps, meet challenges and accelerate implementation, to be taken by Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, and that the agreed conclusions shall be widely disseminated to the United Nations system and made widely available by all Member States to the public in their own countries so as to encourage follow-up action;

10. *Also decides* that the Commission on the Status of Women will, as necessary, continue to discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required, and with attention to relevant issues on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the annual main theme of the Council, as applicable;

11. *Requests* the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women, prior to the session, to identify such an emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach, in consultation with all Member States, through their regional groups, and taking into account inputs from other relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Commission through an interactive dialogue;

12. *Decides* that the outcome of the discussion on that emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

13. *Also decides* that, at each session, the Commission on the Status of Women will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

(a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;

(b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data with regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global levels;

14. *Further decides* that the outcome of the discussion on the review theme will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

15. *Calls upon* the Commission on the Status of Women to further enhance its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including in support of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the summit by, inter alia, expanding its cooperation with other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions through, as appropriate, the exchange of information and transmission of the outcomes of its work, joint informal interactive events and the participation of its Chair, in consultation with the Bureau, in relevant processes;

16. *Invites* all gender-specific United Nations entities and other relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to contribute, where appropriate, to the discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women;

17. *Invites* the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women;

18. *Decides*, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 and 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, such organizations should be encouraged to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and in the monitoring and implementation process relating to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and the dissemination of information;

19. *Also decides* to strengthen existing opportunities for non-governmental organizations, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 and 1996/31, to contribute to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, including by allocating time for them to deliver statements on themes relevant to the session, during panels and interactive dialogues and at the end of the general discussion, taking into account geographical distribution;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the continuation of the annual parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and their contribution to the discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women, as

well as the programme of side events held on the occasion of the sessions of the Commission;

21. *Encourages* all Member States to consider including in their delegations to the Commission on the Status of Women technical experts, planning and budgeting experts and statisticians, including from ministries with expertise relevant to the themes under consideration, as well as parliamentarians, members of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, as appropriate;

22. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to play a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including through regular briefings and consultations with Member States;

23. *Also encourages* the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of its work;

24. *Encourages* Governments and all other stakeholders to undertake comprehensive preparations for each session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at the national, regional and global levels, as applicable, so as to strengthen the basis for follow-up to outcomes and implementation;

25. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, the Commission should take into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the work programme of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the summit, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women, on an annual basis, a report on the priority theme, including conclusions and recommendations for further action;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women, on an annual basis, a report on progress made on the review theme at the national level;

28. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system an assessment of the impact of the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to discussions within the United Nations system;

29. *Decides* that, at its sixtieth session, when the Commission on the Status of Women will decide on its future multi-year programme of work, it should further review its working methods with a view to further aligning them with the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit to be held in September 2015.

## B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

**Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission***

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-ninth session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

**Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Priority theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development;

(ii) Review theme: elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Note by the secretariat containing a discussion guide for the high-level round table on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

* For the discussion, see chaps. V and VI.

**Documentation**

Reports of the Secretary-General:

- Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme
- Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
- Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (pursuant to Commission resolution 58/1)
- Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (pursuant to Commission resolution 58/3)
- Proposals on the Commission's priority themes for future sessions, bearing in mind the results of the ongoing review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 and Council resolution 2012/30

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the secretariat transmitting the outcome of relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

**Documentation**

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the secretariat serving as a contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session.

## C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolution and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

**Resolution 59/1**
**Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women**

*The Commission on the Status of Women*

*Adopts* the political declaration annexed to the present resolution.

**Annex**

**Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women**

*We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments,*

*Having gathered* at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, to undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the realization of women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout their life cycle, as well as to ensure the acceleration of the implementation of the Platform for Action and to use opportunities, in the post-2015 development agenda, for the integration of a gender perspective into economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and with a commitment to ensuring the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the preparations for and the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the development, economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and related fields so that they effectively contribute to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

1. *Reaffirm* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[2] and the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[3]

2. *Recognize* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights, and call upon States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;[5]

3. *Welcome* the progress made towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through concerted policy action at

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232; see also *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[5] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

the national, regional and global levels, also welcome the review activities undertaken by Governments in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, noting the contributions of all other relevant stakeholders and the review outcomes, and look forward to the global leaders' meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment to be held on 26 September 2015;

4. *Express concern* that progress has been slow and uneven, that major gaps remain and that obstacles, including, inter alia, structural barriers, persist in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, and recognize that 20 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, no country has fully achieved equality and empowerment for women and girls, that significant levels of inequality between women and men and girls and boys persist globally, and that many women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life cycle;

5. *Recognize* that new challenges have emerged, and reaffirm our political will and firmly commit to tackle the challenges and remaining implementation gaps in all 12 critical areas of concern, namely, women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl child;

6. *Pledge* to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through strengthened implementation of laws, policies, strategies and programme activities for all women and girls; strengthened and increased support for institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels; the transformation of discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes and the promotion of social norms and practices that recognize the positive role and contribution of women and eliminate discrimination against women and girls; significantly increased investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic resource mobilization and allocation and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively to contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action; strengthened accountability for the implementation of existing commitments; and enhanced capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and access to and use of information and communications technologies;

7. *Emphasize* that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential for achieving the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and for tackling the critical remaining challenges through a transformative and comprehensive approach in the post-2015 development agenda, including through the sustainable development goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women

and girls, as proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in its report,[6] which shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,[7] and also through the integration of a gender perspective into the post-2015 development agenda;

8. *Reaffirm* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and recall the follow-up work of the Commission in that regard, and also reaffirm its catalytic role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, on the basis of the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

9. *Recognize* the important role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and the central role it is playing in supporting Member States and in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and call upon UN-Women and the United Nations system to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review and appraisal at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring of progress with data and robust accountability systems;

10. *Welcome* the contributions made by civil society, including non-governmental organizations and women's and community-based organizations, to the implementation of the Platform for Action, and pledge to continue supporting, at the local, national, regional and global levels, civil society engaged in the advancement and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including by promoting a safe and enabling environment for civil society;

11. *Recognize* the importance of the full engagement of men and boys for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and commit to taking measures to fully engage men and boys in efforts to achieve the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

[6] See A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[7] See General Assembly resolution 68/309.

12. *Commit* to engaging all stakeholders for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and call upon them to intensify their efforts in this regard;

13. *Also commit* to using all opportunities and processes in 2015 and beyond to accelerate and achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, and strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

**Decision 59/101**
**Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women***

4. At its 19th meeting, on 20 March, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of the following documents and to bring them to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, including the Chairs' summaries of the four ministerial round tables (under agenda item 3) and the Chairs' summaries of the panel discussions (under item 5):

**Under agenda item 3**

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[2]

Note by the secretariat on the discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the overall theme "Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls";[3]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the Commission on the Status of Women and to the Human Rights Council the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women;[4]

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions;[5]

Note by the secretariat transmitting the results of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;[6]

* For the discussion, see chap. III and chap. V.
[1] E/CN.6/2015/2.
[2] E/CN.6/2015/3.
[3] E/CN.6/2015/4.
[4] E/CN.6/2015/6-A/HRC/29/3.
[5] A/69/38.
[6] E/CN.6/2015/9.

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on making the economy work for women and girls;[7]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on investing in gender equality and the empowerment of women;[8]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality;[9]

Chair's summary of the ministerial round table on accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls;[10]

**Under agenda item 5**

Letter dated 19 December 2014 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women;[11]

Note by the secretariat on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council;[12]

Chair's summary of the panel discussion on "Commission of the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming: a dialogue with functional commissions";[13]

Chair's summary of the panel discussion on "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals: lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change".[14]

[7] E/CN.6/2015/INF/1.
[8] E/CN.6/2015/INF/2.
[9] E/CN.6/2015/INF/3.
[10] E/CN.6/2015/INF/4.
[11] E/CN.6/2015/7.
[12] E/CN.6/2015/8.
[13] E/CN.6/2015/INF/12.
[14] E/CN.6/2015/INF/13.

# Chapter II
## Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

5. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd and 19th meetings, on 9 March and 20 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (E/CN.6/2015/1);

(b) Proposed organization of work (E/CN.6/2015/1/Add.1).

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work (see chap. VIII, sect. D), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the course of the session.

7. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed that the Chairs' summaries of the ministerial round-table discussions and the panel discussions would be reflected in the report on the session and made available on the website of UN-Women.

### Action taken by the Commission

8. At its 19th meeting, on 20 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women" (E/CN.6/2015/L.5), submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand) on the basis of informal consultations.

9. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

# Chapter III

## Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

11. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 17th meetings, from 9 to 19 March 2015, and at its 19th meeting on 20 March 2015. It held general discussions at its 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 14th and 16th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the Entity (E/CN.6/2015/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2015/3);

(c) Note by the secretariat transmitting the discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the overall theme "Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls" (E/CN.6/2015/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2015/5);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (A/HRC/29/3-E/CN.6/2015/6);

(f) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions (A/69/38);

(g) Note by the secretariat transmitting the results of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2015/9);

(h) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2015/NGO/1-273).

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 March, the Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, Sam Kahamba Kutesa (Uganda); the President of the Security Council for the month of March 2015, represented by the State Secretary for Women's Rights, Pascale Boistard (France); the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Oh Joon (Republic of Korea); the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; the Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (representing the non-governmental organizations), Lydia Alpízar Durán; and a representative of the Voice of Libyan

Women and member of the Global Civil Society Advisory Group of UN-Women (representing youth), Alaa Murabit.

14. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the Commission on Higher Education of the Philippines, Patricia Licuanan, delivered a keynote address.

15. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Minister and Vice-Chair of the National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council of China, Song Xiuyan, made a statement in her capacity as representative of the host country of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

16. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women and the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

17. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of African States), Ecuador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Brazil (on behalf of the Common Market of the South), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Thailand, China, Germany, the Niger, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Indonesia and Jamaica.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for South Africa (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Latvia (on behalf of the European Union, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Malawi (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Guatemala (on behalf of the Central American Integration System), Brunei Darussalam (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Guatemala, Gambia, Zambia, Kyrgyzstan, Bahrain, Sweden, South Africa, Liechtenstein, the Philippines, Denmark, Azerbaijan, Luxembourg, Grenada, France, Malta, Costa Rica, New Zealand, the Bahamas, Samoa, Cambodia, Fiji, Viet Nam, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Algeria, Honduras, Angola, Chile, Morocco, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Tonga.

19. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission agreed that the Chairs' summaries of the discussion of the ministerial round tables (E/CN.6/2015/INF/1-4) would be referred to in the report of the fifty-ninth session and made available on the website of UN-Women.

20. At the 4th meeting, on 10 March, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Liberia, Japan, Paraguay, Burkina Faso, the Sudan, the Netherlands, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Russian Federation.

21. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Iraq, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Tunisia, Iceland, Guinea, Haiti, Togo, Nicaragua, Peru, Nauru, Kuwait, Guinea-Bissau, Poland, Malawi, Afghanistan, Burundi, Namibia, Italy, Portugal and Kazakhstan.

22. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Republic of Korea made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

23. At the 5th meeting, on 11 March, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences made an oral report in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/7 of 24 March 2011.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Uganda, Spain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Switzerland, India and Pakistan.

25. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Palau (also on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Papua New Guinea, Australia, Kiribati, Cameroon, Nepal, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Rwanda, Mongolia, Ireland, Hungary, Benin, Sri Lanka, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Romania and Lithuania.

26. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea and Japan in exercise of the right of reply.

27. At the 7th meeting, on 12 March, statements were made by the representatives of El Salvador, the United Republic of Tanzania, Brazil, Estonia, Tajikistan, the United States of America, Georgia, Uruguay, Belarus and Israel.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Norway, Senegal, the Czech Republic, Eritrea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ukraine, Latvia, Colombia, Turkey, South Sudan, Botswana, Panama, Albania, Malaysia, Slovakia, Seychelles, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Bulgaria, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

29. At the 9th meeting, on 13 March, statements were made by the representatives of Lesotho, the Congo and Finland.

30. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Myanmar, Monaco, Sao Tome and Principe, Cyprus, Timor-Leste, Armenia, the Marshall Islands, Slovenia, Qatar, Croatia, Saudi Arabia, Maldives, the Solomon Islands, Greece, Austria, Cabo Verde, Tuvalu, Swaziland, Chad and Jordan.

31. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the Holy See and the State of Palestine made statements.

32. At the same meeting, the observers of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the International Olympic Committee, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance also made statements.

33. Also at the 9th meeting, the representative of Israel and the observers of the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

34. At the 14th meeting, on 17 March, statements were made by the representatives of Zimbabwe and Guyana.

35. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Mauritius, Mauritania, Madagascar, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Libya and Trinidad and Tobago.

36. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Economic Community of West African States and the International Development Law Organization made statements.

37. Also at the 14th meeting, the representatives of the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Conference

on Trade and Development, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme made statements.

38. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations made statements: ActionAid, Amnesty International, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (also on behalf of the Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation, Asia Pacific Women's Watch and Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre), Center for Women's Global Leadership, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, European Women's Lobby, Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, HelpAge International, International Center for Research on Women, International Federation of University Women, International Indigenous Women's Forum, International PEN, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Trade Union Confederation and IPAS.

39. At the 16th meeting, on 18 March, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations made statements: National Alliance of Women's Organizations, Soroptimist International, Widows for Peace through Democracy, Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Working Group on Girls, Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Presbyterian Church USA, Stichting Rutgers WPF, Socialist International Women, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Coalition against Trafficking in Women.

## A. Agenda item 3 (a)
## Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18)

### 1. Parallel ministerial round tables*

40. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 March, the Commission held four ministerial round tables in parallel meetings on the overall theme "Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls".

#### Round table A: making the economy work for women and girls

41. Ministerial round table A was chaired by the Federal Minister of Welfare and Social Security of the Sudan, Mashaair Ahmed Elamin Aldawalab, who made an opening statement.

42. *The General Secretary* of the International Domestic Workers Federation, Elizabeth Tang, served as moderator.

* See the Chairs' summaries of the ministerial round-table discussions (E/CN.6/2015/INF/1-4), available from the website of the Commission.

43. The representatives of China, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Kenya, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Dominican Republic and Belgium participated in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

44. The observers for Serbia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Hungary, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, Mali and Malta also participated.

**Round table B: investing in gender equality and the empowerment of women**

45. Ministerial round table B was chaired by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Marina Kaljurand, who made an opening statement.

46. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, Amina Mohammed, served as moderator.

47. The representatives of Thailand, the Sudan, Paraguay, Ghana, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, India, Spain and Uruguay participated in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

48. The observers for Angola, Viet Nam, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Sweden, Senegal, Ireland, Eritrea, Papua New Guinea, Mozambique, the Philippines, Fiji, Palau, Mongolia and South Africa also participated.

**Round table C: transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality**

49. Ministerial round table C was chaired by the Minister for Women's Affairs of El Salvador, Yanira Argueta, who made an opening statement.

50. The former Prime Minister of Senegal, Aminata Touré, served as moderator.

51. The representatives of Jamaica, Cuba, Brazil, Ecuador, Belgium, Japan, Georgia and Estonia participated in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

52. The observers for Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Luxembourg, Algeria, Chile, Samoa, France, Mexico, Mozambique, Liechtenstein, Iraq, Iceland, Poland, Tonga, Nauru, Costa Rica, Morocco, Argentina and Slovenia also participated, as did the observer for the European Union.

**Round table D: accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls**

53. Ministerial round table D was chaired by the Secretary-General of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Benno Bättig, who made an opening statement.

54. The Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner of Australia, Elizabeth Broderick, served as moderator.

55. The representatives of Belgium, Jamaica and Cuba participated in the ensuing interactive dialogue.

56. The observers for Bahrain, Zambia, Morocco, Malawi, Norway, Guatemala, Latvia, Madagascar, Mali and Guinea also participated.

## 2. Round tables with ministerial participation*

### Round table on the theme: "National mechanisms for gender equality: advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change"

57. At its 6th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission held three panel discussions on the topic "National mechanisms for gender equality: advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change", which was opened by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas (El Salvador), and moderated by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

*Segment 1*

58. Presentations were made by the Chair of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs of Tajikistan, Makhfirat Khidir-Zoda; a Member of the Women's Parliamentary Group of Timor-Leste, Maria de Lurdes Martins de Sousa Bessa; the Chief Gender Monitor of the Gender Monitoring Office of Rwanda, Rose Rwabuhihi, and a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Nicole Ameline (France).

59. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of Uganda, Pakistan and Finland participated.

60. The observers for Bahrain, Mozambique, Mexico, Nepal and Italy also participated.

61. The moderator made concluding remarks.

*Segment 2*

62. Presentations were made by the Minister for Social Development of Ecuador, Cecilia Vaca Jones; the Director of the Department of Women, Equity and Equality of the Ministry of Women, Family and Children of Senegal, Absa Wade Ngom; and a project manager at Partnerships for Human Rights, Georgia, Ana \rganashvili.

63. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of China, the Sudan, Switzerland, Estonia and Cuba participated.

64. The observers of South Africa, South Sudan, Jordan, Morocco and Iraq also participated.

*Segment 3*

65. Presentations were made by the Minister for Women's Affairs of Costa Rica and President of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, Alejandra Mora Mora; the Minister for Women's Affairs of Cambodia, Ing Kantha Phavi; the Secretary-General of the National Commission for Women of Jordan, Salma Nims; and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.

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* See the Chairs' summaries of the round tables with ministerial discussions (E/CN.6/2015/INF/5 and E/CN.6/2015/INF/6), available from the website of the Commission.

66. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of the Dominican Republic and Finland participated.

67. The observers for Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cameroon, Suriname, Mexico and South Africa also participated.

68. The moderator made concluding remarks.

**Round table on the results of regional reviews conducted by the regional commissions of the United Nations**

69. At its 8th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the results of regional reviews conducted by the regional commissions of the United Nations which was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand), and moderated by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women.

70. Presentations were made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe; the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (via recorded video); the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (via video link); and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

71. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of Germany, Uruguay, the Sudan, Estonia, Thailand, Uganda, Cuba, the United Republic of Tanzania, Finland and the Democratic Republic of the Congo made statements.

72. The observers for Norway, Italy, Nepal, Bahrain, Ukraine, Jordan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Botswana and Fiji also made statements.

73. The observer for the State of Palestine made a statement.

74. The representative of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (Geneva) also made a statement.

75. The executive secretaries of the regional commissions and their representatives responded to the comments made and the questions posed by delegations.

76. The moderator made concluding remarks.

## 3. Panel discussions*

**Panel discussion on "Resources for gender equality: good practices and strategies for action/the way forward"**

77. At its 10th meeting, on 13 March 2015, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Resources for gender equality: good practices and strategies for action/the way forward", which was opened by the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Commission, Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan), and moderated by the Executive Director and co-founder of Gender at Work, Aruna Rao.

* See the Chairs' summaries of the panel discussions (E/CN.6/2015/INF/7, E/CN.6/2015/INF/8, E/CN.6/2015/INF/9, E/CN.6/2015/INF/10 and E/CN.6/2015/INF/11), available from the website of the Commission.

78. The Commission heard a presentation by the keynote speaker, Gender and Development Social Scientist and Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex in the United Kingdom, Diane Elson.

79. Presentations were also made by the following panellists: the Director of Studies and Financial Forecasts at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Morocco, Mohamed Chafiki; the Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development in Costa Rica, Lydia Alpízar Durán; and the Acting Head of Division of Global Partnerships and Policies in the Development Co-operation Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Patti O'Neill.

80. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the keynote speaker and the panellists, in which the representatives of the Sudan, China, Finland, Switzerland, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uganda made statements.

81. The observers for Mexico, Italy, Canada, Mali, Ethiopia, Chad, South Sudan, Ireland, Sri Lanka and the Gambia also made statements, as did the observer for the European Union.

82. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Christian Aid, Zonta International and Federación Española de Mujeres Directivas, Ejecutivas, Profesionales y Empresarias (Spanish Federation of Directors, Executives, Professionals and Business Women).

83. The keynote speaker and the panellists responded to the comments made and the questions posed by delegations.

84. The moderator made concluding remarks.

**Panel discussion on "The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality"**

85. At its 11th meeting, on 16 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on "The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality", which was opened by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (El Salvador) and moderated by a programme adviser for Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Noelene Nabulivou.

86. Following a statement by the moderator, presentations were made, on behalf of their respective entities, by the following panellists: for ProMundo and for MenEngage, United States, Gary Barker; for Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa, Bafana Khumalo; the Director of Status M, Croatia, Natko Gereš; a special adviser at the Ministry of Gender Equality of Denmark, Søren Feldbæk Winther; and the Permanent Representative of Suriname to the United Nations, Henry MacDonald.

87. Statements were made by the following respondents: the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations, António Gumende; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Hiroshi Minami; the Deputy Executive Director, Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund; the Chief Executive Officer of the Mother Child Education Foundation, Turkey, Ayla Goksel; and the founder of the Together For Girls partnership, United States, Gary Cohen.

88. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of Switzerland, Cuba, Germany, Indonesia, the Islamic

Republic of Iran, Finland, Uganda, Guyana, the Sudan, Paraguay and Kenya made statements.

89. The observers for Gabon, Italy, Mexico, Iraq, Sweden, Nepal, Mauritius, Equatorial Guinea, Jordan, Mali and the Philippines also made statements, as did the observer for the European Union.

90. The representative of the New Future Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also participated.

91. The panellists responded to the comments made and the questions posed by delegations.

92. The moderator made concluding remarks.

**Panel discussion on "Changing social norms to achieve gender equality: expectations and opportunities"**

93. At its 12th meeting, on 16 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Changing social norms to achieve gender equality — expectations and opportunities", which was opened by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Pille Kesler (Estonia), and moderated by the Director of the Regions Refocus 2015 initiative of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Anita Nayar.

94. Presentations were made by the following panellists: a Professor of Economics of the University of Vermont in the United States, Stephanie Seguino; the Founding Director and Board Chair of the Women's Information Consultative Center, Ukraine, Olena Suslova; the Chief Executive Officer of The Women's Project, Mexico, Elisa Salinas; a representative of World Pulse, Cameroon, Chi Yvonne Leina; and the Senior Adviser of the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund.

95. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of Pakistan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Switzerland, Finland, Indonesia, the Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Sudan, Guyana, the United States, Zimbabwe, Japan, Thailand and Jamaica made statements.

96. The observers for Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico, South Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal, Gabon, France, New Zealand, Equatorial Guinea and Malawi also made statements, as did the observer for the European Union.

97. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated: Association for Progressive Communications and MenEngage.

98. The panellists responded to the comments made and the questions posed by delegations.

99. The moderator made concluding remarks.

**Panel discussion on "Building the evidence and monitoring results: gender statistics and indicators"**

100. At its 13th meeting, on 17 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Building the evidence and monitoring results: gender statistics and indicators", which was opened by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Christine Löw (Switzerland), and moderated by the Executive Secretary of the National Institute for Women of Mexico, Marcela Eternod Arámburu.

101. Presentations were made by the following panellists: a Statistician-General of Statistics South Africa, Pali Lehohla; a statistician at the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, Nguyen Thi Viet Nga; a Senior Statistician and Economist in Development Data Group of the World Bank, Masako Hiraga; and the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, Statistics Division of the Secretariat.

102. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of the Sudan, Switzerland, Burkina Faso, Guyana, Finland, Indonesia, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Uganda, the United States, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Japan made statements.

103. The observers for Italy, Cameroon, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, Turkey, Mali, Nepal, Chad, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Benin, Mongolia and Samoa also made statements, as did the observer for the European Union.

104. The representative of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, a non-governmental organization, also participated.

105. The panellists responded to the comments made and the questions posed by delegations.

106. The moderator made concluding remarks.

**Panel discussion on "Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls"**

107. At its 15th meeting, on 18 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls", which was opened by the Vice-Chair (Estonia) and moderated by a member of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, Alda Facio.

108. Presentations were made by the following panellists: an adviser at the Korea International Cooperation Agency, Republic of Korea, Kim Eun Mee; a programme officer of the Roma Education Fund, Hungary, Anasztázia Nagy; a development specialist and member of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, Kenya, Teresia Njoki Otieno; and a member of the Mayan Organization of Women Living with Disabilities, Guatemala, Petrona Laura Reyes Quino.

109. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists responded to the statements made and questions posed by the representatives of the Niger, Guyana, Finland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States, Indonesia, Uganda, Paraguay, Burkina Faso, the Sudan, Japan and China.

110. The observers for Italy, Gabon, the United Arab Emirates, Mexico, Iraq, Mauritius, Morocco, Mauritania, the Philippines, Mali and the Solomon Islands also made statements, as did the observer for the European Union.

111. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated: the Australian Lesbian Medical Association, the International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Association internationale des droits de l'homme.

112. The panellists responded to the comments made and the questions posed by delegations.

113. The moderator made concluding remarks.

## B. Action taken by the Commission

### 1. Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

114. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women" (E/CN.6/2015/L.1), submitted by the Chair of the Commission, on the basis of informal consultations.

115. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution and decided to transmit and bring it to the attention of the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. C).

### 2. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

116. At the 17th meeting, on 19 March, the observer for South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2015/L.2).

117. At the 19th meeting, on 20 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

118. At the same meeting, Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

119. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the State of Palestine made a statement to request that the "State of Palestine" be deleted from the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

120. Also at the 19th meeting, the Secretary of the Commission stated that in view of the request, the State of Palestine was no longer a co-sponsor of the draft resolution.

121. At the 19th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 27 to 2, with 13 abstentions, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

*In favour*:

Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guyana,

India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kenya, Niger, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

Belgium, Burkina Faso, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Jamaica, Japan, Netherlands, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland.

122. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Israel and the Netherlands (also on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union).

123. After the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Japan.

124. After the vote, a statement was also made by the observer for the State of Palestine.

### 3. Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women

125. At its 19th meeting, on 20 March, the Commission decided to take note of a number of documents before it under the agenda item (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 59/101).

# Chapter IV
# Communications concerning the status of women

126. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 16th (closed) meeting, on 18 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 128 below);[1]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2015/R.1 and Add.1).

## Action taken by the Commission
## Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

127. At its 16th meeting (closed), on 18 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women.

128. At the same meeting (closed), the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Working Group and to incorporate it in the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and the replies by Governments thereon (E/CN.6/2015/R.1 and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women, no such communications having been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the 71 confidential communications, addressed to 48 States, received directly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were 22 replies from 16 Governments.

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, which stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the

[1] The report was also circulated internally under document symbol E/CN.6/2015/R.2.

Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted, as had communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape and rape within the family, sexual abuse and sexual harassment, committed by private individuals and military and law enforcement personnel;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, including targeted killings of women, domestic violence, child and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion and trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation;

(c) Abuse of power by law enforcement officials and military personnel, lack of due process and delays in proceedings, arbitrary arrest and detention and failure to grant a fair trial and prevent impunity;

(d) Pressure exerted on victims of violence by law enforcement officials, often preventing them from filing complaints;

(e) Inadequate conditions for women in detention and penitentiary systems and degrading treatment and torture of and sexual violence against those women;

(f) Serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, some of which target vulnerable groups, including discrimination, harassment, degrading treatment and sexual violence;

(g) Intimidation, harassment, including judicial and sexual harassment, and detention of and violence and sexual violence against women human rights defenders, as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their activities;

(h) Violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, of women and girls, including in detention, and restricted access to health-care services, including gynaecological and obstetric services, and discrimination against women belonging to vulnerable groups;

(i) Discrimination resulting from stereotypical practices and attitudes towards women, including in the areas of education and employment and during court proceedings;

(j) Inadequate institutions and ineffective implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights;

(k) Legislation and/or stereotypical practices that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights;

(ii) Economic, social and cultural rights;

(iii) Right to property and inheritance;

(iv) Employment;

(v) Education;

(vi) Access to justice;

(l) Failure by States to combat stereotypes concerning women, to exercise due diligence to prevent violence and discrimination against women and girls and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, resulting in a climate of impunity, failure by States to provide adequate protection and support for victims and failure by States to ensure access to justice, potentially leading to revictimization.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and its consideration of the question of whether any of those appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, including torture, targeted killings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as harassment and detention of women human rights defenders;

(b) Harmful practices, including child and forced marriage, and their adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of their fundamental rights;

(c) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and of their reproductive rights as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and discrimination against vulnerable groups of women in access to health care;

(d) The persistence of gender stereotypes;

(e) The continued existence of legislation and/or practices in many areas that discriminate against women or have the effect of discriminating against women, and the ineffective implementation of existing laws aimed at protecting and promoting the human rights of women, notwithstanding States' international obligations and commitments;

(f) Discrimination and violence against vulnerable groups of women and girls;

(g) The persisting climate of impunity and abuse of power, including where discrimination and violence against women, including sexual violence, are perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel;

(h) The failure by States to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and adequately investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide protection and assistance to victims.

9. The Working Group expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Governments that had submitted replies or clarifying observations with regard to the communications received, recognizing their importance. Expressing concern about the gap between the number of communications and the number of replies received, the Working Group called upon all Governments that had not done so to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments had carried out investigations into the allegations made, explained their positions or taken measures, including improving the enforcement of existing legislation, introducing programmes and services to better protect and assist women, including women victims of violence, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence and making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women, in accordance with relevant international standards.

# Chapter V

## Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

129. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 17th, 18th and 19th meetings on 19 and 20 March. It held panel discussions at its 17th and 18th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 19 December 2014 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2015/7);

(b) Note by the secretariat on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2015/8).

**Panel discussions***

*Panel discussion on "Commission of the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming: a dialogue with functional commissions"*

130. At its 17th meeting, on 19 March, he Commission held a panel discussion on "Commission of the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming: a dialogue with functional commissions", which was opened by the Chair of the Commission (Thailand) and moderated by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Martin Sajdik (Austria), who made a statement.

131. Presentations were made by the following panellists: the Chair of the Commission on Population and Development, Bénédicte Frankinet (Belgium); the Chair of the Commission for Social Development, Simona Mirela Miculescu (Romania); the Vice-Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Bente Angell-Hansen (Norway) (via video link); the Vice-Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Victoria Romero (Mexico); and the Chief of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, on behalf of the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Dalee Sambo Dorough.

132. During the ensuing interactive discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, the United States, Jamaica, Indonesia, Kenya and Japan.

133. Statements were also made by the observers for Mali, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and Kuwait.

134. The panellists responded to the comments made and the questions posed by delegations.

135. The President of the Economic and Social Council made concluding remarks.

*Panel discussion on "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals: lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change"*

136. At its 18th meeting, on 19 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to sustainable

* See the Chairs' summaries of the panel discussions (E/CN.6/2015/INF/12 and E/CN.6/2015/INF/13), available from the website of the Commission.

development goals: lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change", which was opened by the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur (Sudan) and moderated by a Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona.

137. Presentations were made by the Professor of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management, Gita Sen; a programme adviser for Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Fiji, Noelene Nabulivou; the President of Centre d'études sur la justice et la résolution 1325, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Irène Esambo; and the Senior Coordinator of the "Fit for purpose" initiative for the United Nations system in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

138. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Uganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Guyana, Finland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Cuba.

139. The observers for Turkey, Italy, Australia, Mexico, Senegal, Madagascar, Solomon Islands and Nepal also made statements, as did the observer for the European Union.

140. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations made statements: Women Thrive Worldwide and Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

141. The panellists responded to the comments made and questions posed by delegations.

142. Concluding remarks were made by the Assistant-Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau of UN-Women.

143. The moderator made concluding remarks.

**Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women**

144. At the 19th meeting, on 20 March, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of the documents before it under the agenda item (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 59/101).

# Chapter VI
## Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission

145. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 19th meeting, on 20 March. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2015/L.3).

146. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixtieth session and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

# Chapter VII
## Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session

147. At the 19th meeting, on 20 March, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session, as contained in document E/CN.6/2015/L.4.

148. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-ninth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its finalization.

# Chapter VIII
# Organization of the session

## A. Opening and duration of the session

149. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters on 21 March 2014 and from 9 to 20 March 2015. The Commission held 19 meetings (1st to 19th).

150. The session was opened on 21 March 2014 by the Chair pro tempore, Libran Cabactulan (Philippines), who was the Chair of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.

151. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 March 2015, a statement was made by the Chair, Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand), following her election.

## B. Attendance

152. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.6/2015/INF/14.

## C. Election of officers

153. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers are elected to the Bureau of the Commission for a term of office of two years. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the fifty-eighth session, on 15 March 2013 and 10 March 2014, and at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the fifty-ninth session, on 21 March 2014 and 9 March 2015, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-ninth session:[2]

*Chair*:
Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand)

*Vice-Chairs*:
Pille Kesler (Estonia)
Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas (El Salvador)
Christine Löw (Switzerland)

*Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur*:
Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan)

[2] The following officers were elected for the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Commission: Christine Löw (Switzerland), at the 1st meeting of the fifty-eighth session, on 15 March 2013; Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan), at the 2nd meeting of the fifty-eighth session, on 10 March 2014. The following officers were elected for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission only: Pille Kesler (Estonia), at the 1st meeting of the fifty-ninth session, on 21 March 2014; Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand) and Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas (El Salvador), at the 2nd meeting of the fifty-ninth session, on 9 March 2015.

## D. Agenda and organization of work

154. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2015/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18);
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session.

155. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2015/1/Add.1.

## E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

156. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the Commission appointed China as member of the Working Group on Communications for the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions (2016 and 2017) of the Commission.

## F. Documentation

157. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-ninth session is available from: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015/official-documents.

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